



# ULSTER COUNTY NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NOVEMBER 1, 2006**

## **Criminal Justice And Safety Committee Address Public Safety In Ulster County Relative To Sex Offender Issues**

Legislator Frank Dart, Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature Criminal Justice and Safety Committee, stated today that the resolution on sex offender residency in Ulster County is being held in committee and will not be voted upon at the November Legislative meeting.

Dart said he was following the recommendations of District Attorney Donald Williams, that a residency law should contain a comprehensive plan pertaining to the control and monitoring of sex offenders in Ulster County.

However, there are two resolutions presented to the Criminal Justice and Safety Committee by Dart that will be voted upon by the full Legislature at the November meeting. The first is a memorializing resolution to enhance the penalties for sex offenders that fail to properly register. Currently the offender is only charged with Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a year in jail for the first offense. Dart said that District Attorney Donald Williams' recommendation for the offense to be classified a felony, would be more of a deterrent for failing to register.

The second resolution was a memorializing resolution for New York State to develop a uniform notification law on sexual offenders. With hundreds of police agencies across the State, Dart said there is no uniform process for police agencies to notify the general public should a sex offender move into their neighborhood. This matter was also discussed at an Ulster County Police Chiefs meeting.

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A third resolution was discussed but held in committee concerning civil confinement of sexually violent predators. District Attorney Donald Williams recommended to the committee that “our Legislature in the strongest terms request that the New York State Legislature and the Governor, act expeditiously in passing civil confinement legislation.” The State has been unable to agree on such legislation. Dart said he is awaiting to hear from Assemblyman Cahill’s office on what the dispute is between Assembly Bill No. 9282 and the Senate Bill No. 6325 regarding civil confinement.

Dart said that he wants to make sure anything Ulster County passes will be constitutionally sound. We are working diligently with the District Attorney’s Office, Probation and other County agencies to make sure Ulster County residents are as safe as we can possibly make them. With the cooperation of the police agencies that deal with Ulster County’s 187 registered sex offenders on a daily basis, we will have a unified comprehensive plan for sex offenders.